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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

Intelligence Memorandum

THE SECURITY SITUATION IN URUGUAY

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
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INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Security Situation in Uruguay
(Situation Report Number 2)

1. Additional information confirms that the Uruguayan Communist Party (PCU) hopes to create an atmosphere in which those presidents planning to attend the summit meeting might feel uncertain about their physical security. One method the Communists evidently will use to do this was revealed in a 28 February special meeting of PCU militants. A central committee member stated during the meeting that the party would try to provoke incidents with the police so as to obtain wide-spread domestic and foreign publicity on unstable conditions in Uruguay; should the police prove smart enough to avoid such incidents, the member added, other methods of getting publicity would have to be devised.

2. Thus far, at least, the police have proven to be smart enough. Young Communist militants were involved in a few street demonstrations in Montevideo on the night of 2 March, but the police apparently left them alone and there was no trouble.

3. Uruguayan government officials generally seem confident that a presidential visit to the summit site of Punta del Este would not be beyond their capabilities to protect. Some officials, however, including the new Montevideo chief of police and Foreign Minister Luisi, have been reported to be nervous about the security problems of a presidential visit to Montevideo itself.

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